

These Days . . .

Appeasement and Compromise

By George E. Sokolsky

IT IS A TRUISM that to the most impudent go the spoils, particularly of politics. If the meek are to inherit the earth, the day of inheritance is a long way off. This is as true in international relations as it is in the private world.

Soviet Russia has never been meek. From the very start of its existence in 1917, it has been aggressive, forceful, attacking. The reason has been that the Marxist is convinced of the inevitability of his success because of the laws, which he accepts, of historic necessity.

IF ONE READS Dr. Nelson Glueck's "Rivers in the Desert," he can go back many thousands of years and find that man was then struggling against his physical environment and with what ingenuity he managed to succeed. But something was added. The spiritual appears in man early in his history—that is, a nonphysical something, a gossamer invisibility so strong that it binds and holds one as the conscience does. This is the soul of man, the God in man. The existence of the mystical, the spiritual, the Marxist denies.



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The Marxist therefore approaches politics, the relations between government and government, with a brutality heretofore unknown to mankind.

The very best discussion I have yet seen of this process is a little pamphlet written by Mme. Suzanne Labin, a French journalist. Her work is entitled, "The Technique of Soviet Propaganda," and has been issued by the Senate Internal Security Subcommittee.

Mme. Labin recognizes and describes the techniques of destroying thought. The basic idea is to fix ideas in the minds of opponents so that they repeat cliches instead of thinking things out. For instance, the use of the term, East-West, instead of the Communist world and the Free world. Another is the twisted definitions given the word, liberal, which in the 19th century meant the extension of the rights of man but in the middle of the 20th century means the expansion of the power of government.

MME. LABIN SAYS THIS: "Weak or strong, CPs are characterized everywhere by the following specific features:

"1. They are strictly controlled by the Kremlin, whose orders they blindly carry out, whatever zigzags or disavowals that may mean.

"2. They are not organized as parties, but as totalitarian states. They are fanatical, monolithic, intolerant. The top rules and manipulates the bottom, which only serves as a striking force.

"3. Its apparatus, in proportion to its membership, is 50 to 100 times better equipped with material and means of propaganda than that of any other party. Thus a CP has on the average one permanent (i. e., a paid activist) for 25 to 50 members, while other parties have 1 per 1000 to 5000 members. Its turnout of printed matter—newspapers, magazines, pamphlets, leaflets, posters, home bulletins, books—is also on the average 100 times greater per member than that of any other party, however rich it may be. The same proportion holds true for premises, card files, printing presses, and a still higher one for study groups, party schools, political meetings, protection services, et cetera."

Mme. Labin says that 150,000 persons throughout the world are permanently assigned to this work and that the annual expenditure is half a billion dollars. The Communists are more active today than they have ever been.

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25 YEAR RE-REVIEW

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"East-West"

WORDS INFLUENCE ideas and actions. The incorrect use of words produces incorrect ideas. It used to be that Soviet Russia was called Soviet Russia; that the satellites were called satellites; that the complex of Communist countries was referred to as Communist countries.

All of a sudden, the Communist nations are called East; the free nations are called West. For the Soviet complex, one might use the term, the Soviet Universal State, but that has not taken with the general public, which has an insufficient grasp of history to recognize what it means. It is a good term because that is what Marxism seeks to establish, a single state based on one ideal of life and utilizing one technique of government and one control of the means of production and distribution.

The use of "East-West" is strictly fraudulent because it covers up a multitude of facts. For instance, are Greece, Turkey, Israel, Iran, west? Geographically, they are east but east of what? If we say that the West is representative of the NATO powers, is Nationalist China east?

WHERE IS THE LINE of



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demarcation? Is Cuba east or west? Is India, east, west, or nowhere? In the struggle for the control of men, there is no geographical line. The word, east, surely fits West Berlin as it fits East Berlin, but one is anti-Marxist and the other is Marxist.

The present struggle for survival is not geographical. It is essentially a struggle over ideas, over ways of life, over philosophies of existence.

The "Spirit of Camp David," a new device of confusion, apparently requires the avoidance of dirty words. But what is the "Spirit of Camp David"? It applies to a private conversation between President Eisenhower and Premier Khrushchev at a presidential retreat called Camp David. What they said to each other is a secret. Therefore we have no idea as to what the spirit is. Perhaps it is a kind of political ectoplasm that floats about catching Strontium 90 until we are all suffocated by it. The phrase was not first employed in the United States.

Although we do not know what the "Spirit of Camp David" is or means, we do observe that it has certain characteristics. It ushered in a go-easy-on quarrels with Soviet Russia; created an atmosphere favorable to the summit conference. Khrushchev seems to take kindly to this atmosphere personally, but Mikoyan came to

Cuba to stimulate antagonism to the United States in Cuba, 90 miles off the coast of Florida; the Berlin question was raised to the state of a brink; the Arab-Israel crisis was elevated from a flicker to a flame; the Communists in South America gave President Eisenhower an unpleasant reception wherever they could. In a word, the deed did not quite follow the spirit.

The "Spirit of Camp David" is not altogether a smooth and kindly poltergeist laboring for the peace of the world. It looks more like one side has fallen for gentle talk while the other side does the same kind of business at the same stand—only a new signboard has been put up.

INSTEAD OF the misnomer "East-West," designed to mislead, let us use the simple terms, Soviet, Communist, Marxist for the euphemism some now call East, and for West let us use the synthetic term, "Free World." This term is sufficiently descriptive although it is a misnomer, but it is our misnomer and we know what we mean.

It makes sense to be precise about language. It makes sense to strike down propagandistic terms designed to confuse our people.

"The Spirit of Camp David"—indeed! I wonder if anyone anywhere could write a philosophical document explaining it.

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